Fees from applicants seeking information under RTI Act

2538. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some senior officers of Delhi Police have reportedly asked for "fees" amounting Rs. 50,000/- from applicants seeking information under the Right to Information Act;

(b) whether any reasons for demanding such a huge fee has been given by concerned Police Officers;

(c) whether Government has so far enquired or taken any action against officers who are involved in this "illegal demand" and;

(d) whether Government proposes to provide more teeth to RTI Act in order to avoid such cases in future including scraping of fees, if necessary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) In seven cases, Delhi Police has asked the applicants seeking Information under Rights to Information Act, the fees above Rs. 50,000/- in accordance with provision of section 7(3) of the RTI Act.

(b) The calculation, on the basis of which the demanded amount was arrived at, was informed to the applicants.

(c) The Central Information Commission in a decision dated 15.10.2007 in the case of Shri S.P. Goyal Vs. Commissioner of Income Tax held that Section 7(3) of the RTI Act enjoins a public authority to charge an information seeker both, the fee, which is Rs. 2/- per page and 'further fee' towards the cost of providing the information.

(d) There is no proposal to amend the RTI Act or the Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) rules, 2005 for scrapping of fees.

ULFA establishments in Bangladesh

2539. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ULFA Commanders had been well established in Bangladesh with a vast network including seven hotels and six nursing homes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ULFA are getting arms and ammunition *via* port city Cox Bazar;

(c) if so, the measures taken or being taken to curb the activities of these elements;

(d) whether there has been any positive effect consequent on the visit of our Minister for External Affairs to Bangladesh; and

(e) what is the stage of fence Construction of Meghalaya borders and has it ever been halted for political reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) and (b) There are reports to suggest that United Liberation Front